

ASHG/NHGRI Genetics and Public Policy Fellowship

Past ASHG/NHGRI Fellow Testimonials

Christa Wagner



*The ASHG/NHGRI Fellowship has provided me with a diverse array of experiences, both in terms of topics covered and settings in which I worked on policy. **The Fellowship provides an exceptional experience for those with a background in genetics to play a role in effective policymaking.** It also **made me a more marketable applicant for policy positions beyond the fellowship.***

- Christa Wagner (2016 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow) Read more about **Christa's experience** on The ASHG Blog.

Cari Young



*The ASHG/NHGRI Policy Fellowship provided me with diverse learning opportunities and the chance to contribute meaningfully to the formation and analysis of health and science policy. It provided a unique opportunity to take on varied roles within the science and health policy landscape, allowing me to experience the pros and cons of working in each setting and helping me to crystallize my thinking on where I might want to go next. It also **made me a more marketable applicant for policy positions beyond the fellowship.***

- Cari Young (2015 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow) Watch a **video interview** with Cari about her experience.

Laura Koontz



***The ASHG/NHGRI Genetics and Public Policy Fellowship** was without exaggeration a life-changing experience. My fellowship allowed me to take my background in genetics research and translate it into a career as a public policy professional at a national cancer patient advocacy organization. Not only has the experience been invaluable, the network of fellows I've joined as an alumna are among the best policy professionals in D.C...The fellowship has also allowed me to fully realize my commitment to bettering the lives and treatment of people with cancer - the reason I got into scientific research in the first place!*

- Laura Koontz (2012 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow)

Cristina Kapustij



***I've gained a very desirable skillset** and professional network only achievable by doing the work I was given. I will use the tools this experience has given me in every aspect of my career. This fellowship has created a group of impressive policy makers networked into the genetics community that is a force to be reckoned with in Washington, DC. And our numbers grow every year.*

- Cristina Kapustij (2011 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow)

Sara Selgrade



***One of the most valuable things about the fellowship has been the group of former fellows**, most of whom are still working in policy in or near Washington, D.C. They are an amazing resource and a testament to how the fellowship prepares you for a variety of rewarding careers at the intersection of science and policy.*

- Sara Selgrade (2008 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow)

Pam Bradley



***The ASHG/NHGRI fellowship is unique** in providing "immersion" experiences in multiple sectors, giving the fellow a first-hand understanding of the different perspectives, motivations and limitations in policymaking. The fellowship was instrumental in launching me into an exciting and rewarding policy career that builds on my science background. The past fellows network is also an amazing resource. Access to the variety and depth of expertise of the past fellows greatly enriched the fellowship experience, and the growing network continues to help me professionally and personally.*

- Pam Bradley (2007 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow)

Ed Ramos



***Without question, the fellowship brought to light new pathways** not often considered when pursuing a PhD and I am grateful for the strong network that supported me as a fellow and continues to support me to this day.*

- Ed Ramos (2006 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow)

Derek Scholes



"This fellowship changed my life. During my postdoc, I developed a passion for science and health policy, and was very keen to pursue a policy career. The fellowship was exactly the opportunity I needed to gain the training, knowledge and experience necessary to enter the policy world of Washington, D.C. Because the fellowship allows the fellow to work in different settings, I gained an appreciation of the range of career options available, and this empowered me to choose a career path after the fellowship that was right for me. It is a wonderful bonus that the alumni from this fellowship all remain in contact with each other: I consider this network of former fellows to be among my most trusted colleagues."

- Derek Scholes (2005 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow)

Daryl Pritchard



"So many opportunities have been afforded to me by this fellowship. When I first applied for the position, I was a genetics postdoc living in DC. As a scientist, I primarily worked in a laboratory and didn't have many chances to communicate with others about my research and technological advancements in medicine. I was interested in public policy and got involved in government relations. The fellowship allowed me to go further in that direction by combining my scientific expertise with the communication of science to large audiences, and it provided me with experience and skills in policy development, legislative affairs, business, and government relations that I continue to draw upon today."

- Daryl Pritchard (2002 ASHG/NHGRI Fellow)

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